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17 April 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: The Soviet Notes on German Unity as a Possible Indication of a More "Conciliatory" Soviet Policy

1. The attached memorandum gives the Board view on recent Soviet moves, centering the discussion upon the most important Soviet actions, those with regard to German unity.

2. In the Board's view, recent Soviet moves with regard to Germany are designed to weaken the unity of the West and retard Western rearmament. Nothing has been said or done by the Kremlin thus far which indicates a willingness to make real concessions in order to lessen international tension.

3. The Board believes that the conclusions of NIE-53 with respect to Soviet intentions towards Germany remain valid, and that there is as yet no reason to believe that the Soviet proposals indicate a shift in the world policy of the Kremlin.

4. In the circumstances there seems to be no basis for the preparation of a new estimate. The Board therefore suggests that the attached memorandum be sent to the members of the IAC.

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SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
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